

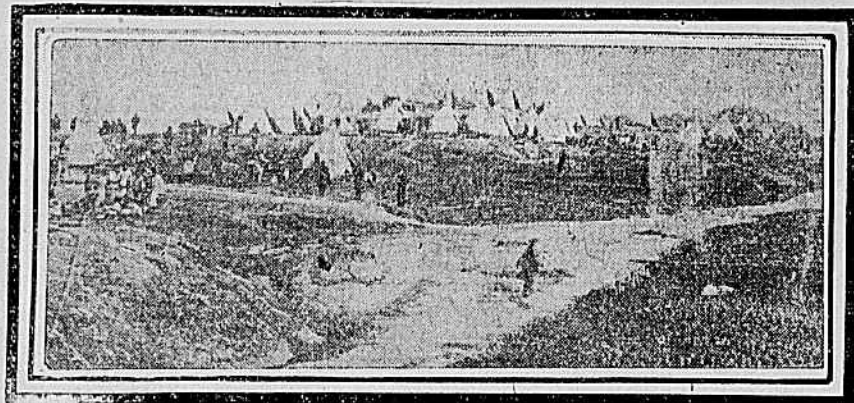
# Arming the Yellow Giant---150,000 Trained Soldiers Are Now Under China's Colors---Vast Military Strength.



CHINA'S FUTURE ARMY OF 20,000,000.



YUAN SHIH KAI, THE FATHER OF CHINA'S NEW ARMY.



CAMP AT THE RECENT YANGTSE MANOEUVRES.



THE NEW CHINESE CAVALRY IN THE FIELD.

Wuchang, 1909. The biggest army of the world has now its beginning in this fast awakening Empire of China. It already numbers 150,000 trained soldiers. Two years from now it will have 400,000 and within twenty-five years, if it goes ahead as did that of Japan, it will have 5,000,000 on a peace footing and 10,000,000 in times of war. Such an army is not a dream of the opium pipe. It is a live possibility, and it seems less improbable than did the present army of Japan twenty-five years ago. The Japanese army began its creation in 1872. On a peace footing it now numbers 600,000, and its war strength is close to a million. To-day, one Japanese in every eighty is serving as a soldier, and at a pinch, one in every forty can be thrown into the field. China is already in advance of the Japan of a quarter of a century ago. Her soldiers are now being trained by the best of foreign military talent. They are armed with modern weapons, and their organization is on the lines which have brought up the army of Japan.

The military system of Japan came from Germany. That of China is the same, with Japanese improvements. Let us contrast the China of the future with the Germany of the present. The Germans keep 1 per cent. of their whole 60,000,000 under arms, and in times of war they could put 5 per cent. of them into the field. Their peace army is 600,000, and their war strength more than 2,000,000. In the same ratio, China with its 400,000,000 will keep 4,000,000 soldiers in time of peace, and will be able to muster 20,000,000 in times of war. I repeat: These are not visions. The yellow giant is already in the gymnasium. He is swinging dumbbells and Indian clubs under the best of modern physical directors. He is out on the drill ground, practicing the goose step and learning to shoot.

## China's New Army.

I had a long chat last night with a high military authority who is star-

tioned in Peking. He is a trained officer of one of the great European powers, who has been sent here to investigate what China is doing. It is his business to keep track of the military forces of the empire, to visit them in their camps and attend their manoeuvres. He has just returned from sham battles between two of the armies on the Yangtse-Kiang, and is full of the changes which are going on in military matters all over this empire. Said he:

"The growth of China's army is fast becoming a serious problem, and it is one which is bound to trouble the world in the future. You can have no idea of the situation without going from province to province. The central government has ordered each viceroy or governor to create one or more army divisions. In addition, one has been assigned to Manchuria and another to Chinese Turkestan. The reorganization is going on after a scheme laid down by Yuan Shih Kai and others in 1904. Yuan might be called the father of the new army. His scheme started in with 60,000 men. In 1905 over 100,000 were drilling, and the enrolment will soon be double that number. It already comprises twelve divisions of more than 12,000 each, and it will eventually be increased to thirty-six divisions, or about 420,000. This number should be under arms by the end of 1911. It will be divided into two armies: one of the north and one of the south."

## A Chinese Division.

"What is the character of China's new army?" I asked.

"Practically the same as that of the army of Japan. The troops have Japanese military text books, and they use the same physical exercises, the same drill, the same methods, and the same drill. As to the divisions, they are constituted in the same way. Each has four regiments of infantry, one of cavalry and one of artillery. In addition each division has a battalion of engineers and transport troops, a balloon and telegraph section, as well as a company devoted to sanitary work. It numbers all told 12,512 men, including officers."

"They are now to be found in every province and in every large city. The government scheme provides for a provincial military school at the capital of each province and an academy at every one of the larger cities. The provincial schools might be called the primary military schools and the academies the secondary or high schools. In addition there is to be a military university, or war college, at Peking."

"These schools are first-class and are run along modern lines," the expert went on. "I visited one the other day at Hankow, about 600 miles from the sea up the Yangtze River. The school there has 1,000 students, and buildings have been put up to accommodate 3,000. The pupils are bright young soldiers, detailed by the regimental commanders of the forces at Hankow. They range in age from eighteen to twenty-four, and enter the school for a course of three years. They are actual soldiers, who go through their regular drill, although they put in several hours every day in the school. They are the brightest young men of that army, and are being educated to become the officers of the future. Those who rank highest will be given the best places and put in command, while the others will teach in primary military schools. When the academies are started the best of the graduates will be admitted there, and they will not be appointed as officers until they have gone through them. The present scheme contemplates four of such military academies. They will correspond to West Point and will probably be located at the chief cities of Chihli, Hupeh, Kiangsu and Shensi."

A Great War College at Peking. "How about the military university?" "That will be at Peking. It will be modeled on the same plans as your new War College in Washington, and will give the highest class of instruction. It will deal with military problems of all kinds and of army organization on the broadest scale. The buildings have already been constructed. They are connected with the department of war and cover several acres. The War College and the War Department together have about the

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"In addition to these military schools," continued the colonel, "every one of the new public schools in all parts of the empire is drilling its students. The government requires that the boys have uniforms and that be taught military tactics. The little eight-year-olds and ten-year-olds are put through their military evolutions on certain days of every week, and all practice athletics and physical training. In some schools this training is supervised by officers detailed from the garrisons nearby, and in others by Chinese teachers educated in the military schools at home and abroad. In this way every Chinese schoolboy is being fitted to enter the

army and a vast amount of excellent material is in process of creation."

**Soldiers Becoming Respected.**

"Has any change taken place in the opinion of the Chinese as regards the military profession?"

"Yes. A great change! Until now the soldier has belonged to the lowest class of society. The celestials have always held four grades of respectability. At the top are the scholars who have studied or passed the examinations. To this class largely belong the officials and teachers and writers of every kind. The second highest class embraces all who have to do with tilling the soil; the farmers and gardeners. After them come the mechanics, and still further down in the scale the merchants and tradesmen, with the soldier lowest of all. To-day the soldier is better paid, and the government at Peking has so elevated his standing that the army is now looked upon as a desirable profession. Many of the younger sons of the best families are being sent abroad to be trained for service, and many are in the army and naval schools here. A military school for the sons of nobles has been established at Peking. We had eighty-eight of its students at the manoeuvres."

"This country has now many graduates of foreign military academies, and it is annually sending more and more army students abroad. There are thirty Chinese studying in such schools in France, six in Germany, two in England and two at West Point. Many are being educated in Japan, and there are several thousand graduates now in the service. The young Chinese began to go abroad for military instruction as soon as the Boxer trouble was over. The majority of them went to Japan, choosing that country for several reasons. One was the forbearance and kindness of the Japanese troops during the rebellion, and another Japan's proximity to China. The fact that education there cost less was a great inducement, as was also the Japanese language, which was so allied to the Chinese that these people learn it more easily than any other. It is for this reason that they have adopted Japanese text books, which are now being translated into Chinese."

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Brooklyn, N. Y.—"I am a firm believer in Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I was a great sufferer from organic female troubles for years, and almost despaired of ever being well again. I had bearing-down pains, backache, headache and pains in my abdomen, and tried Mrs. Pinkham's Compound as a last resort. The result was astonishing, and I have used it and advocated it ever since. It is a great boon to expectant mothers. I have often said that I should like to have its merits thrown on the sky with a search-light so that women would read and be convinced that there is a remedy for their sufferings. "My husband joins me in its praise. He has used it for kidney trouble and been entirely cured."—Mrs. E. A. Bishop, 1915 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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Mrs. Pinkham invites all sick women to write her for advice. She has guided thousands from the path of sorrow. Address Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass.



As well as any troops I have seen as to shooting, they have not had much practice at that. Ammunition costs heavily, and so far the army has not had enough money to spend a great deal on target practice. "Speaking of their effectiveness, while the Chinese soldiers are not as efficient men to man as the European or Japanese soldiers, yet they are rapidly improving, and I see no reason why they should not become so. They have proved themselves effective in suppressing all internal disorders that have recently arisen. This means that the government has already in its hands what it has never had before, and that is a machine for the immediate quelling of a rebellion. It also means that the government will soon be in the position to do as it pleases, and that it will be able to regulate a taxation and revenue system for the whole empire. When that time comes we shall have a new China indeed."

## How the Government is Quelling Rebellions.

"There is nothing that has done so much to make the army popular as the two or three rebellions which have been put down by the new troops within the past two years. The railroads have enabled the soldiers to be quickly sent to the seat of trouble and possible revolutions have been stamped out in their beginning. There was one such rebellion on the western borders of Shantung about a year and a half ago. The government telegraphed the army commanders at Hankow and by the Hankow-Peking railroad, an effective force was soon on the ground. It was only a year ago that a rebellion was put down in Yunnan by the foreign trained troops, and now the government has a new force which would have involved all China was nipped in the bud at Anking, on the Yangtze. That was perhaps the most serious trouble that has faced the new China, but it was quelled by means of the telegraph and the army, backed by a governor who had nerve enough to use them. Indeed, I think it safe to say that from now on China can control its own people; things that in the past a well organized empire has been made and that it will soon be well under way."

## How One Governor Saved China.

Since my talk with this man I have learned more about the rebellion at Anking. It took place at the time of the death of the Emperor and the empress dowager, and had it not been for the prompt action of the governor of Anhui it would have involved China in a civil war that might have been equal to the Taiping rebellion, in which 20,000,000 were killed and whole provinces were ruined. It would have probably caused the killing of many missionaries, and would have put China far back on the march of civilization—if, indeed, it had not resulted in the breaking up of the empire, and its division among the foreign powers. This rebellion was planned by a large secret society that had sworn to drive out the Manchus as soon as the great Empress Dowager died. The society had persuaded two of the modern battalions to start the rebellion. They were to seize the city of Anking, and then two regiments of infantry were to join them. At the same time they thought the whole province of twelve millions would come to their support and that the revolution would be extended to all parts of the country. This rebellion actually started, but it was prevented by the energy, courage and resourcefulness of the governor of Anhui, a protégé of Yuan Shih Kai, who was at Anking at the time, well he had learned of the plot and prepared for it.

## How the Rebellion Was Quelled.

Anking is a walled city, and the gates are closed at nightfall. The mutineers had caused fires to break out in their barracks, expecting that the fire companies of the city would be sent out to extinguish them and that they could rush through the gates, thus opened, and take the town. There was a vast deal of ammunition in the armory, and this would have sufficed for the start of the rebellion. The governor had given special orders, however, that the gates be kept

closed, and when the fire appeared he was obeyed. The mutineers rushed up to the wall and tried to get in, but the governor took off his official robes, assumed command of the 600 troops inside the city and kept back the rioters. At the same time he sent telegrams up and down the river, and by morning the Chinese gunboats began to arrive. At the order of the governor they fired on the barracks of the mutineers and drove them to the hills. At the same time the governor opened the gates and ordered the two regiments of infantry to follow the mutineers and attack them. They refused, and some of their number deserted, increasing the force of the rebels to over 1,000. The next day the governor attacked this band and dispersed it. He then called up the regiments of infantry and told them that they had disobeyed orders, but that they would not be punished if they would stack their arms, and make no further trouble. They did so, and having gotten possession of the arms, he discharged them from the ranks, beating President Roosevelt's exploit at Brownsville by two battalions. In the meanwhile the troops were moving toward Anking. The governor had notified the army by telegraph, and within thirty-six hours there were five columns of soldiers marching upon the city from different sections of the country. The result was that all thought of rebellion at once disappeared and the people accepted the new Emperor and the present administration as fixed and unchangeable. I understand that there will be no further trouble, and that peace is now fixed in every part of the empire. (Copyright, 1909, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

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